



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY
100 MAPLE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01545-5398

Minutes
Board of Sewer Commissioners

Date: December 13, 2005

Present: Joseph Zecco, Chairman
Paul Swydan, Secretary
Jack Perreault, Town Engineer
Robert Tozeski, Superintendent Water & Sewer

Absent: Paul Burnett

The minutes from the previous meeting of November 9th were held for approval until the next meeting when both members from that meeting would be present.

1. The Board next discussed information regarding a possible sewer rate change. The reasons for this consideration were because of recent Town Meeting action to lessen the percentage coming from taxation to support the sewer budget and impacts from the new permit regulations at the Westborough Wastewater Treatment Plant. Figures were presented showing an average of \$750,000 annually as the amount that would be needed to be made up. This amount would include the \$300,000 annually appropriated at Town meeting for sewer improvements. Looking at the present rates in conjunction with the average sewer budget including average capital projects of \$2,300,000 a 32% increase would be needed to make up the potential shortfall. It was proposed that an 18% increase would be a prudent first step which would change the present residential rate of \$1.90/thousand to \$2.25/thousand. This would also change the present commercial rate of \$2.50/thousand to \$3.00/thousand.

This was presented as an initial look at the situation and modeling will be done over the next month to check other rates and associated impacts before any final change is made.

2. Jack Perreault updated the Board on the present appeal of the Treatment Plant permit. The parties participated in a mediation session with EPA and they verbally agreed that as long as a progress was being made then it would be handled by the agency through administrative order. The Westborough Treatment Plant Board dropped their appeal under the condition that OAR would drop their appeal and the terms agreed upon by the EPA verbally would be formally written down and signed. There would be a 54 month period to complete the upgrades starting in January 2006.
3. A proposal was presented to the Board regarding Lot 9 in CenTech Park. WBDC needs to extend the water and sewer infrastructure to the lot. The cost of this infrastructure is \$1,200,000 which will require a Town match (1 to 2 ratio) of \$400, 000 (\$160,000 for water and \$240,000 for sewer). The primary reason the Town is supporting this request is to make the sale of Lot 9 possible which in turn will allow WBDC to purchase the 60± acres that will form the basis of CenTech East protecting the Town from its sale to another party. The Board voted unanimously to support the sewer system improvement.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Tozeski
Superintendent Water & Sewer

RT/dar